Incentives to boost family planning

489. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to deny the facilities to the persons having more than two children in order to check the population growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce new incentives and disincentives in order to give boost to family planning in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The issue of disincentives for couples not adopting two child norms was deliberated by the Group of Ministers while formulating the National Population Policy, 2000. It was agreed that disincentives as such should be avoided, as in practice they can become coercive,hurting the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Besides, surveys show that there is an unmet need for supplies and services, especially in remote and rural areas and urban slums, which require to be addressed on priority.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The National Population Policy, 2000 envisages participation based on informed choice rather than incentives and disincentives. However, certain promotional/motivational measures in the form community incentives, cash incentive of Rs. 500 under the Balika Samridhi Yojana, National Maternity Benefit Scheme etc. have been introduced to encourage the adoption of small family norm, care of the girl child, adoption of healthy behaviour by women during pregnancy etc.

Dengue fever

490. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dengue fever is prevalent in Delhi and some other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the help and assistance extended to the State Governments where dengue fever is prevalent;

(c) whether his Ministry has been educating the masses about the symptoms and treatment of dengue fever;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Technical assistance for investigation, prevention and control of Dengue outbreak in different parts of country is provided to the States through Dte. of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP), Delhi and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi. Dte. of NAMP and NICD provide laboratory diagnostic support for confirmatory etiological diagnosis. They also organize training programmes on prevention and control of dengue fever for State and district level health functionaries.

The States utilize the commodities supplied under NAMP for containment measures against Dengue, if required.

(c) to (e) Health Education Campaign including Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are carried out by the concerned health departments in the States for educating masses on the symptoms of dengue and its prevention and control.

Incidents of negligence towards patients in AIIMS

†491. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of negligence towards the patients in All India Institute of Medical Sciences that have come to light during the last one year;

(b) the names of persons held responsible for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) During the last one year, six complaints of alleged negligence of doctors were registered in the Institute. The complaints are being enquired into by the established procedures. So far, no evidence of negligence by the doctors or the nurses of the Institute has come up. The Institute follows the laid down procedures to attend all the cases and initiate measures from time to time for maintenance of patient care services in the best possible way so that the patients do not face any difficulty.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.